

"Life consists not in holding good cards, but in playing those you hold well." - Josh Billings

Paw Prints

10-DAY WEATHER
Highs in the 60s, lows in the 40s. Cloudy with showers.

ISSUE 7

MCBEE HIGH SCHOOL'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER!

February 28, 2020



Austin Smith, Caitlyn Moody and Kylee Sawyer. Photo by: Danica Graham.

Student Spotlight: Middle School Advisory Board

ANABEL LECOUNT
DANICA GRAHAM

The Middle School Advisory Board is a group of students who gather with administration to discuss changes to make everyone's middle school experience more enjoyable.

The Advisory Board was formed by four eighth grade students who wanted a change: Austin Smith, Kylee Sawyer, Danica Graham and Caitlyn Moody.

Before the board was created the middle school had no voice.

With lack of attention from administration they were left to battle the issues that arose in the middle school alone.

At the start of the year Sawyer, Moody, Smith and Graham gathered in Mrs. Griggs' office with a letter expressing their concerns about dress code, lack of incentives and mental health.

When Dr. McLaurin and Mrs. Griggs saw how respectfully the students presented this information he named them student advisory.

Another problem that the middle school advisory is focusing on is the lack of attention given to students' mental health.

"Mental health is overlooked in middle school just because we are younger, but you never know what someone is going through," says Kylee Sawyer.

The Advisory Board came up with the idea to make a drop box on the middle school hallway for students who wanted to talk to someone about things going on in their life. Teachers could take turns reading it and helping come up with advice.

Their hard work helped middle school girls be able to wear leggings with a shirt that stops at their mid-thigh instead of having to wear a dress with them.

"It's wrong that boys can dress comfortably and girls were expected to wear dresses or jeans," says Austin Smith about the dress code before it was changed.

The middle school students have worked very hard to earn the title Middle School Advisory. They have improved many rules and have many more planned for the future.

Staff Spotlight: Mrs. Sullivan

TRINITY TEAL
TAHLIYAH WATT

Mrs. Pamela Brister-Sullivan has been teaching at McBee High for 25 years. She teaches Desktop Publishing, IBA1, Administrative Support Technology, Image Editing, and Entrepreneurship.

Sullivan attended South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, S.C. There, she received a bachelor's degree in Business Education and earned her master's degree in Instructional Technology.

Sullivan always wanted to be a teacher, but didn't decide on being a business teacher until she met her high school teacher, Ms. Sandra Ervin, who inspired her to really focus on business teaching.

We're so glad Ms. Ervin did. Mrs. Sullivan is one the favorite teachers at the school and students love and respect her.

"She's sweet, beautiful, and treats everyone like her own," says Emily Hall.



Mrs. Sullivan helping ninth grader, Landon McAteer. Photo by: Trinity Teal

"I love the students, the close community, the students are well behaved except for a few and I feel like I am giving back to my community," Sullivan says about why she loves teaching at McBee High.

When she's not at school, Mrs. Sullivan spends time with her husband, Jerry to whom she has been married for 17 years, and her son, Evan, who is in ninth grade here at McBee High.

In her free time, Sullivan enjoys spending time with her family and friends, reading, cooking, and working on her extremely stylish fashion sense.



Mrs. Sullivan in her classroom. Photo by: Trinity Teal

"I try to get to know my students by establishing long lasting relationships with them," she says of how she connects to her students.

Sullivan also coaches football and basketball cheer for the middle school. Her style as a coach is loving and supportive, and the girls thrive under her leadership.

"Sully knows how to lead the team in an awesome way and she loves everyone," says Caitlyn Moody, cheerleader.

If she wasn't a teacher, Mrs. Sullivan says she would be a lawyer or a small business owner.

Sullivan's favorite part of the school year is Spring because everyone seems to be in a good mood and daylight savings time begins.

"I also love the first day of school," she adds, as it is a time of new beginnings and a fresh start.

Something you may not expect to learn about Mrs. Sullivan is that she exercises every day, "although it may not look like it," she says with a smile.

The best piece of advice she's ever gotten is to "always put God first, always treat people the way you want to be treated, and always be kind to people."

If she could live anywhere in the world, she'd live in McBee.

We love you too, Mrs. Sullivan!"

UPCOMING ATHLETIC EVENTS

Middle School Baseball
JV Baseball
Varsity Baseball
Varsity Softball

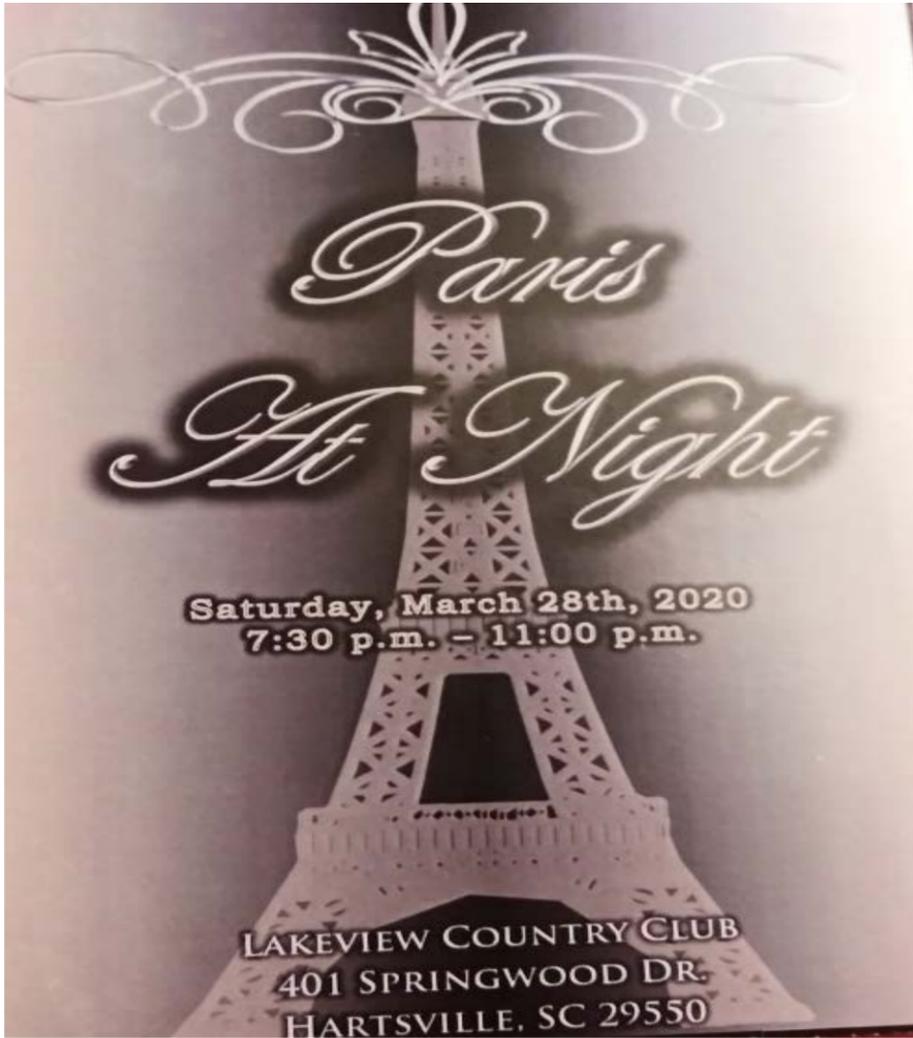
Monday, March 9 @ Arrowhead Park (Cheraw) 4 p.m. / Tuesday March 10 @ Andrew Jackson 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 10 @ Andrew Jackson 6:30 p.m. / Saturday March 14 @ McBee 11 a.m.
Monday, March 9 @ East Clarendon 6 p.m. / Tuesday, March 10 @ McBee 6 p.m.
Tuesday, March 10 @ McBee 6 p.m. / Thursday, March 12 @ Chesterfield 6:45 p.m.

Student Life: Prom Season is Here!

SAMANTHA FUENTES HERNANDEZ
STORMY HARPER

McBee High School's prom will be held March 28 at the Lakeview Country Club in Hartsville from 7:30 to 11 p.m. Tickets cost 40 dollars a person or 60 dollars for couples.

The theme this year is "Paris at Night" so expect a Parisian element to the décor and food.



Paris at Night prom invitation.

The members of the prom committee include: Mrs. Harper, Mrs. Black, Mrs. Howle, Mrs. Dixon and Mrs. Odegard. The prom committee is in charge of fundraisers, decision making and sub-committees to provide assistance where needed.

Though many students have already purchased their dresses and tuxedos, the prom committee suggests that some good locations for students to begin planning their dress and tuxedo shopping are David's Bridal and Men's Warehouse.

Junior, Zack Starling, is psyched for prom. Starling says that he'll attend with a group of friends and says that what he looks forward to the most is the music and DJing.

Juniors Tori Freeman, Brianna McKenzie, Allison Johnson and Bella Johnson are also looking forward to prom this year, however Bella Johnson looks forward to more than just the prom festivities.

Ms. Coleman's EMS class will be hosting a mock wreck the week of prom to help students understand the dangers of drinking and driving. As a participant in the EMS program, Bella will be helping with the first responders.

"I'm most excited about the mock wreck that we're doing - [it] is a student scenario to show the effects of drinking and driving after prom," she says.

Allison Johnson is also excited to take her date, Robert Dale Lyles to prom this year and has already picked out her dress. "Long" is all the information she'll divulge about finding her perfect dress.

Freeman and McKenzie are going shopping for their dresses soon and have had fun looking at all the beautiful gowns they can wear.

"It's hard to decide!" Freeman says with enthusiasm.

After the prom, Allison Johnson and Zack Starling agree that most people like to go midnight bowling, go to a bonfire or hang out with friends.

Madison Simmons, junior, is excited to "see everyone's dresses and dancing."

Jenna Barfield, junior, says what she's most excited for is "to see the outcome of it because we're doing it somewhere different this year."

Most notable among the changes this year is the move from the gym to the Lakeview Country Club in Hartsville.

Prom is a highlight of the upperclassmen's year and it's wonderful that our new administration has worked so closely with students and staff to pick a venue that will make the occasion even more special and memorable.

"I'm glad it's not in our gym," says Simmons with sigh of relief and a smile.

Jennifer Fuentes is a senior, and although she didn't go to prom last year, she is excited to go this year.

Fuentes says she's going with her friends and expects to "have a blast!" Jennifer's date is Cameron Spradley, and she has already picked her dress, shopping out of state in North Carolina.

Devon Bristow, senior, says that although he went to prom last year, it's going to be different this year "because it's in a different place and has more room."

Bristow says he's pretty excited for the food. Devon is going with Rebecca Horton and a group of friends and has already ordered his tuxedo from De'Vane's.

Bristow plans to eat at Texas Roadhouse before prom and after he and his friends leave, they'll rip it up at midnight bowling.

Prom is sure to be a night to remember, and whatever your post-prom activity is, make sure to stay safe, have fun, and remember to take pictures to capture the memories.

See the front office to purchase your tickets.



Paris at Night prom theme

Sports: Baseball Season Begins at McBee

MCKENNA BYRD
RYLEE LONG

Spring is almost here which means baseball season begins again at McBee.

Coach Lloyd, the head coach for the boys' baseball teams, looks forward to an incredible season this year and starts his players early in practice with pre-season games beginning in February.



Varsity players (left to right) Ace Tolson, Dawson Wellmon, and Brady Boyle. Photo by: Bill Porter

Vernon Atkinson (Middle School center and pitcher) says that a normal day at practice has the players throw, stretch, take laps around the field and practice hitting.

Ace Tolson (varsity catcher) says the varsity team spends a lot of time doing catching drills, figure eights, and poles as well as running and hitting during practices.

The players hold their practice in different places depending on the weather. On rainy

days they hold their practices in the batting cages inside, and on a regular day they carry their practices out at the field.

When asked what he looks forward to the most during this upcoming season, Atkinson has an optimistic and positive outlook.

"Practice and win all of my games," Atkinson says confidently.

"When I was three, I picked up a plastic bat and from then I was instantly connected," Atkinson says of his earliest memory of baseball.

Tolson also began playing baseball as a very young child in the years of 2007. Baseball has been a part of their lives since they were toddlers.

The players must know their strengths and weaknesses in order to improve. Since the season has just begun, their weaknesses are yet to be determined, but the boys are sure of their strengths.

Atkinson says that catching is his greatest strength, while Mason Spradley (JV) says his greatest strengths are hitting and running.



(left to right) Mason Spradley and Vernon Atkinson. Photo by: McKenna Byrd

Tolson is strong at hitting, while Brady Boyle (varsity outfielder) says he has "speed on [my] side."



Varsity player number two, Seth Pittington, at bat on February 26 at the game against Central. Photo by: Elliott McKenzie

Atkinson and Spradley hope to play baseball as long as they are able.

To Spradley and Atkinson, it's more than just a sport, it's a passion. Spradley says that he is inspired to play because it "follows after my dad."

"The best thing about being in baseball is just being with my buddies," Tolson says.

"It makes the team special and when the team works together, they win together," he continues.

Payton Griggs (JV right field) looks forward to "growing as a player" this season. It's the only sport he plays, so he's able to devote all of his time and dedication to the team.

The regular season begins in March with pre-season activities beginning in mid-to late February.

Come out and support the Panthers Baseball team this Spring as they work toward another state championship!

"Hopefully we'll make it to the championship!" Tolson responds enthusiastically.

Popular Culture: iTunes Top Trending Artists

LEANN BOOKER
ABBI BUTLER

Music can transport people to another world, which is why music is one of the most popular forms of entertainment.

The 10 most popular top trending songs on iTunes right now are:

On (BTS), Dance Monkey (Tones and I), Memories (Maroon 5), Blinding Lights (The Weeknd), ON feat. Sia (BTS), Filter (BTS), The Box (Roddy Ricch), What a Man Gotta Do (Jonas Brothers), My Time (BTS) and Intentions (Justin Bieber).

Though the iTunes list is helpful for ranking sales on iTunes, students at McBee enjoy a wide variety of genres, some of which won't be found on the top ten lists. McBee students listen to a variety of rap, country, rock, and pop artists, among others..

When asked to name their top five songs eight graders, Elijah Bell and Chevaria Laws, both agreed that, rapper, Rod Wave, is at the top of their list.

"He is cool and I can relate to him," says Bell. Laws agrees, saying, "He puts my life in words."



Rapper Rod Wave. Photo courtesy of: SoundCloud

While rap is at the top of most students' list, eight graders, Samantha Hall and Angel Register, prefer to listen to country music.

"I listen to Upchurch," Hall answers with a smile about her favorite country artist.

When asked why he listens to music, Bell replies with, "It makes me feel happy."

Tanasia Ramirez, senior, listens to all kinds of music, "depending on [my] mood," she says happily.

Most students agree that music makes them feel happy inside, and it gives them an opportunity to escape their worries and troubles.

Register says, "Country music makes me feel good!" she says with a smile from ear to ear.

Music is one of the most important things in the world. It has always been there to help people through difficult times and celebrations.

Self-Help: Following the Rules Benefits All

MARIAN RAMIREZ

Most students know the school rules, but only a few can follow them completely.

The rest of the student population seems to break the rules on a regular basis, not minding the risk of getting caught and facing the consequences that could include a visit to the principal's office.

So how can we, as students, not end up in that scenario that could embarrass us in such an abnormal way and expose the other side of our private reputation?

The answer is simple: we follow the school rules throughout the entire school year.

Yes, most students won't be happy not being able to use their phones during class or being able to hang out in the restrooms spreading untrue rumors about other people, without getting caught by the teachers, administrators and other students.

But, students must follow the rules to avoid punishment. We all need to follow the rules; why else do you think that the school board put them in place?

Is secret Snapchat texting in class worth getting your phone confiscated, not just for one day by the school, but for a week by your disappointed parents? Or is starting a fight for no reason and getting an innocent classmate suspended for three days from school worth earning the anger of your friends?

If people hadn't committed these actions on purpose, things would have ended differently.

So how do we change our school to make life easier for everyone?

Take notice of the actions you commit. Think about what you're going to say or do before you do it. Ask yourself, "Will this affect my relationship with the person I'm about to confront?"

Or "I've seen my classmate say this in this same situation. If I say this I could get in trouble, just like she did."

If you have seen anyone do something that got them in trouble, don't do it, because you know what can happen.

Support your friends when they make positive decisions. Help someone who is being the victim of bullying or unfair treatment.

Remind yourself of the consequences before you make a decision, and remember that not all rules are made to be broken.

Op-Ed: Are Guns in School Good or Bad?

CAITLYN MOODY

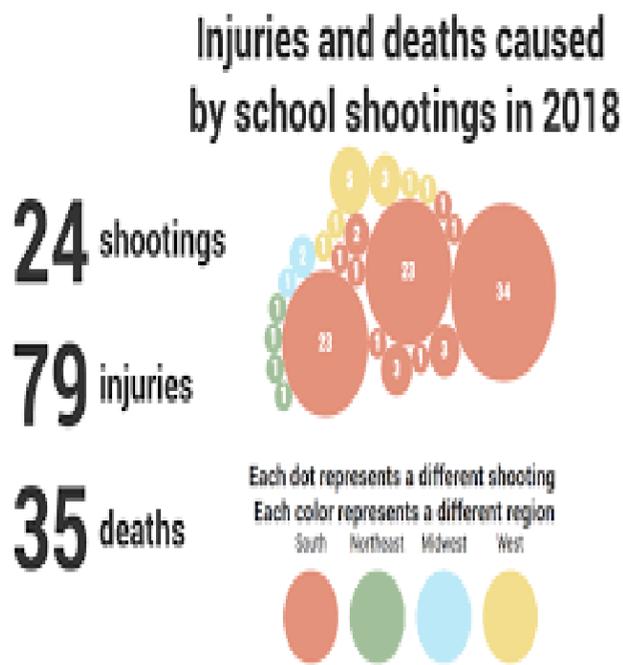
Teachers and students will remain anonymous for the purposes of this article.

Guns in school.

Normally a topic that brings sorrow as school shootings become more and more prevalent in our everyday lives.

However, who said guns in school couldn't be something positive and proactive? Threats of danger in our school system are increasing at a scary rate, putting our friends, teachers and everyone in the school at risk.

In just one school shooting 17 people were killed and 14 more were injured. In just one shooting.



Infographic on school shootings in 2018. Photo courtesy of educationweekly.com.

What if there was a way to combat this? Imagine one of the unthinkable situations we hear about on the news happening at McBee High, but instead of killing a countless amount of people, a teacher was armed with a gun and able to end the situation. Would that be such a bad thing?

When interviewing teachers around MHS, 4 out of 6 teachers say that they think teachers should be allowed to carry guns with certain restrictions. Most teachers agree that strict training would be a requirement before carrying a weapon would be permissible.

"Protection from today's society" is a reason one teacher says why they should be allowed.

One teacher who is against teachers having guns, states "Some people can't control their emotions," adding "how do you know a student wouldn't get it?"

But how can a student get something they don't know is there?

If it's concealed either on the teacher or in a safe location, the student won't know where

Paw Prints

Staff

Student Spotlight
Danica Graham & Anabel LeCount
Staff Spotlight
Trinity Teal & Tah'Liyah Watt
Popular Culture
LeAnn Booker & Abbi Butler
Sports
McKenna Byrd & Rylee Long
Student Life
Stormy Harper & Samantha Fuentes Hernandez
Op-Ed
Caitlyn Moody
Self-Help
Marian Ramirez
Journalism Teacher
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the gun was located, and would not have access.

Security would have to be a priority.

Class surveys show that 76 students out of 91 students (83 percent) say they believe teachers should be able to have guns on school campus, and an overwhelming 89 out of 91 (97 percent) say they would feel safer if teachers did carry a concealed weapon.

Who knows what the future holds for the teachers in Chesterfield County?

It is clear that the United States has a problem.

If the choice was up to you, how would you feel?

To arm, or not to arm?

That is the question.



Infographic showing the vast difference in the amount of school shootings in the United States compared to other countries.. Photo courtesy of cnn.com

EDITOR'S CORNER—Fun Stuff and Extras

A Sneak Peak at Submissions for *Paper Crane*—
McBee High's Literary and Arts Magazine



"Billie Eilish" by Rylee Long



"Collage" by Abigail Sims

Taste of The Panther



2020

The McBee High School Athletic Booster Club
Proudly Presents:

Taste of The Panther

Saturday March 14, 2020 5:00pm until 7:00pm
In The McBee High School Gym Tickets are
\$15.00 and are available for purchase from Our
Athletes, Coaches or in the McBee High School
Office. Everyone must have a ticket to enter the
event. Tickets will be \$20.00 at the door on the
day of the event. Please come out and support
the McBee High Panthers!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MCBEE HIGH JAZZ BAND

Congratulations to the McBee High School Jazz
Band and Director Matthew Crawley for
receiving a rating of "Excellent" on Saturday,
February 28th at the SCBDA Jazz Festival. Jacob
Banasiewicz was unanimously selected as the
"outstanding soloist" by all three judges.

CONGRATULATIONS KAMRYN WALKER

Congratulations to Kamryn Walker on
her 2021 commitment to play softball for
North Greenville University.

